

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET)

International file number PCT/EP2005/055307

Re Point V.

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: US-A-4 571 543 (RAYMOND ET AL) February 18, 1986
(02-18-1986)
- D2: DE 198 53 841 A1 (GHEORGHIU, VICTOR, PROF. DR.-ING.,
22145 HAMBURG, DE; GHEORGHIU, VICTO) June 2, 1999
(06-02-1999)
- D3: DE 101 33 384 A (ROBERT BOSCH GMBH) January 30, 2003
(01-30-2003)
- D4: US-A-4 916 384 (ISHIDA ET AL) April 10, 1990 (04-10-
1990)
- D5: DE 103 19 664 A1 (ROBERT BOSCH GMBH) November 18,
2004 (11-18-2004)
- D6: EP-A-1 260 814 (NGK SPARK PLUG COMPANY LIMITED)
November 27, 2002 (11-27-2002)

2. The present Application does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject matter of Claims 1 through 7 is not novel as defined by Article 33(2) PCT.

2.1 Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses refer to this document):

Sensor for determining the concentration of particles in gases, in particular of soot particles (col. 1, lines 6 through 11),
having at least one substrate element ("electrically insulating substrate 10" in D1, col. 4, lines 38 through 42 and Figure 1)

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and a measuring area between at least one first and one second measuring electrode (col. 1, line 58 through col. 2, line 17; col. 4, line 38 through col. 5, line 10; Figure 1), wherein the two measuring electrodes are configured in such a way that by applying a voltage between the measuring electrodes an asymmetric electric field is formed on the measuring area (col. 4, lines 38 through 53; Figure 1).

Document D1 therefore anticipates all technical features of the independent claim. - Only as additional information, it should be noted that also documents D2 through D5, which all refer to sensors for determining the particle concentration in gases, anticipate the technical features of Claim 1 (see the text sections cited in the search report).

- 2.2 The features of dependent Claims 2 through 7 are also known from documents D1 through D5 (see the text sections of these documents cited in the search report).
3. The features of Claim 8, in combination with the features of the claims to which Claim 8 refers, seem to be novel and inventive as defined in Article 33(1) through (3) PCT for the current state of the art, since the formation of conductive paths in preferred areas using two measuring electrodes and one central electrode between them is not known from the documents of the related art in the area of measurement of particle concentration in gases. Document D6, which mentions a similar electrode system, refers to another technical area (measurement of concentration of gaseous components) and would therefore not be considered by those skilled in the art.